Bayesian Hierarchical MPT Models Application and Practice with TreeBUGS

Daniel W. Heck



2018-09-11

Daniel W. Heck

TreeBUGS: Bayesian Hierarchical MPT Modeling

- The R package TreeBUGS
- Basic modeling
 - Model fitting
 - Convergence
 - Plots
 - Model fit
- 3 Advanced modeling
 - Within-subject comparisons
 - Between-subject comparisons
 - Covariates
- Sensitivity/robustness analysis
 - Priors
 - Predictive distributions
 - Simulation

Daniel W. Heck 2/47

Software for Hierarchical MPT Models

Software for Hierarchical MPTs

- Implementation of MCMC sampling in R/C/Fortran (Klauer, 2010)
- General-purpose software: WinBUGS/JAGS/Stan (Matzke et al., 2015)
- Requires re-implementation of summaries, statistics, plots

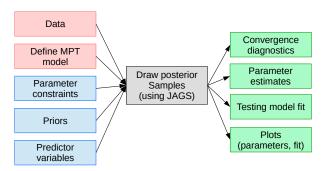
TreeBUGS: A user-friendly R package (Heck, Arnold, & Arnold, 2018)

- Easy-to-use, open source, free
- Fitting and testing MPT models
 - Posterior sampling, summary statistics, and plots
 - Data generation, robustness simulations
 - Change priors, add predictors, etc.
 - Current limitation: Crossed random effects (persons + items)

Daniel W. Heck 3/4

Functionality of TreeBUGS

- Input: R objects or text/csv files (minimal R knowledge required)
- Priors and other details can be changed in R
- TreeBUGS translates the model to JAGS (Plummer, 2003) to draw posterior samples
- Functions for post-processing, summaries and plots



Daniel W. Heck 4/47

TreeBUGS Paper Behav Res CrossMark DOI 10.3758/s13428-017-0869-7 TreeBUGS: An R package for hierarchical multinomial-processing-tree modeling Daniel W. Heck1 · Nina R. Arnold1 · Denis Arnold2,3 © The Author(s) 2017. This article is published with open access at Springerlink.com Abstract Multinomial processing tree (MPT) models are a estimates, fit statistics, and within- and between-subjects comclass of measurement models that account for categorical data parisons, as well as goodness-of-fit and summary plots. We

Daniel W. Heck 5 / 47

also propose and implement novel statistical extensions to

inalista continuous and discusts mudiatous (as sithan fixed on

by assuming a finite number of underlying cognitive process-

as Traditionally data are accurated course marticipants and

Basic Modeling

(corresponding R script: O8-ApplicationIV-TreeBUGS.R)

Daniel W. Heck 6 / 47

MPT Model Specification

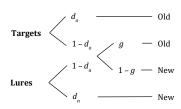
- MPT structure is defined in an EQN model file
 - Simple: copy from multiTree :-)
- Main differences
 - the symbol # allows to add comments
 - you may use numbers for equality constraints (e.g., replace g by 0.50)

Two-high threshold model

(file: 2htm.eqn)

```
# Targets
target hit do
target hit (1-do)*g
target miss (1-do)* (1-g)

# Lures
lure cr dn
lure fa (1-dn)*g
lure cr (1-dn)*(1-g)
```



Daniel W. Heck 7 / 47

Data Structure

- Data: Response frequencies in wide format
 - One line per person
 - One category per column
 - Column names must be identical to the EQN categories!
- Either supplied in .csv-file or as data.frame / matrix in R

Example: 2htm.csv

```
frequencies <- read.csv("2htm.csv")
head(frequencies, 5)</pre>
```

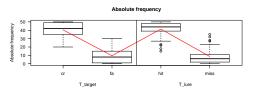
```
## cr fa hit miss
## 1 49 1 49 1
## 2 46 4 39 11
## 3 43 7 45 5
## 4 49 1 50 0
```

Daniel W. Heck 8 / 47

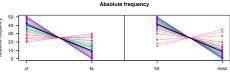
Heterogeneity

- Load TreeBUGS and plot heterogeneity
- If response frequencies are homogeneous, standard (fixed-effects) MPT models are statistically more efficient

```
library("TreeBUGS")
plotFreq(frequencies, eqnfile = "2htm.eqn")
```



```
plotFreq(frequencies, boxplot = FALSE, eqnfile = "2htm.eqn")
```



Daniel W. Heck T_target T_ture 9 / 47

Fitting MPT Models

- Fitting an MPT model in TreeBUGS
 - Model: Text file in EQN syntax (with model equations)
 - Data: .csvfile
 - Constraints: text file with equality contraints

Daniel W. Heck 10 / 47

Fitting an MPT Model in R

- Alternative: define everything directly in R
 - Model: Text string (character in apostrophes)
 - Data: Matrix or data frame
 - Constraints: A list

Daniel W. Heck 11/47

Equality constraints

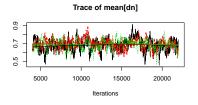
```
# (A) use a general model file and constrain parameters:
fit <- traitMPT(eqnfile = htm,</pre>
                data = frequencies,
                restrictions = list("dn=do", "g=.50"))
# (B) hard-coding of constraints in the EQN file:
htm constr <- "
target hit d
target hit (1-d)*.50
target miss (1-d)*.50
lure cr d
lure fa (1-d)*.50
lure cr (1-d)*.50
fit <- traitMPT(eqnfile = htm_constr,</pre>
                data = frequencies)
```

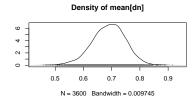
Daniel W. Heck 12 / 47

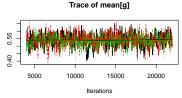
Convergence

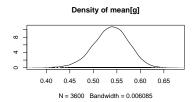
- Convergence check
 - Posterior/ MCMC samples should look unsystematic (like a hairy caterpillar)
 - For more options, see: ?plot.traitMPT

```
plot(fit, parameter = "mean", type = "default")
```









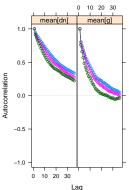
Daniel W. Heck

Convergence

Autocorrelation function

- \blacksquare How strongly are the MCMC samples correlated between iteration t and iteration t+Lag?
- Ideally, these curves should rapidly decrease towards zero.

```
plot(fit, parameter = "mean", type = "acf")
```

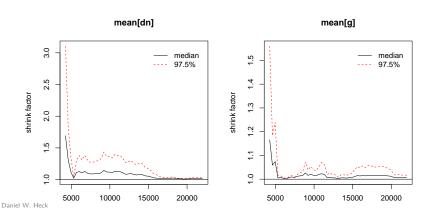


Daniel W. Heck 14 / 47

Convergence

- Plot evolution of Gelman-Rubin statistic
 - Also known as: "potential scale reduction factor" or "R hat"
 - Similar to ANOVA: Compares between-chain and within-chain variances (large differences between these variances indicate nonconvergence)
 - Statistic should be close to 1

```
plot(fit, parameter = "mean", type = "gelman")
```



Options for MCMC Sampling

• If the model has not converged, it must be fitted with more conservative settings:

```
fit <- traitMPT(
   eqnfile = htm, data = frequencies,
   restrictions = list("dn=do"),

n.adapt = 5000, # longer adaption of JAGS increases efficiency of sampling
   n.burnin = 5000,# longer burnin avoids issues due to bad starting values
   n.iter = 30000, # drawing more MCMC samples leads to higher precision
   n.thin = 10, # ommitting every 10th sample reduces memory load
   n.chains = 4) # more MCMC chains increase precision</pre>
```

```
## MCMC sampling started at 2018-09-10 16:48:45

## Calling 4 simulations using the parallel method...

## Following the progress of chain 1 (the program will wait for all

## chains to finish before continuing):

## Welcome to JAGS 4.3.0 on Mon Sep 10 16:48:49 2018

## JAGS is free software and comes with ABSOLUTELY NO WARRANTY

## Loading module: basemod: ok

## Loading module: bugs: ok

## . Loading module: dic: ok

## . Reading module: glm: ok

## . Reading data file data.txt
```

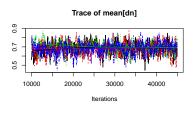
Extend MCMC Sampling

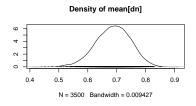
- If the MCMC samples are OK but higher precision is needed:
 - Extend sampling and add new MCMC samples to the fitted JAGS object

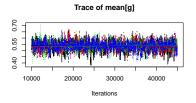
```
fit2 <- extendMPT(fit.
                                        # fitted MPT model
                      n.adapt = 2000, # JAGS need to restart and adapt again
                      n.burnin = 0, # burnin not needed if previous samples are OK
                      n.iter = 10000) # how many additional iterations?
    ## Calling 4 simulations using the parallel method...
    ## Following the progress of chain 1 (the program will wait for all
    ## chains to finish before continuing):
    ## Welcome to JAGS 4.3.0 on Mon Sep 10 16:49:30 2018
    ## JAGS is free software and comes with ABSOLUTELY NO WARRANTY
    ## Loading module: basemod: ok
    ## Loading module: bugs: ok
    ## . Loading module: dic: ok
    ## . Loading module: glm: ok
    ## . . Reading data file data.txt
    ## . Compiling data graph
    ##
          Resolving undeclared variables
    ##
          Allocating nodes
    ##
          Initializing
          Reading data back into data table
    ##
    ## Compiling model graph
    ##
          Resolving undeclared variables
    ##
          Allocating nodes
    ## Graph information:
Daniel ## Heck Observed stochastic nodes: 100
```

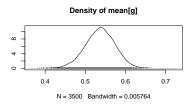
Convergence for Second Fit

Check convergence again:







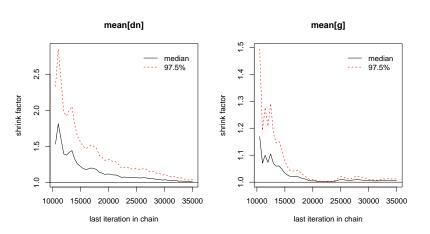


Daniel W. Heck

Convergence for Second Fit

Check convergence again:

```
plot(fit, parameter = "mean", type = "gelman")
```



Daniel W. Heck

Parameter Estimates

- Summary statistics for posterior distribution:
 - Posterior mean and median (50% quantile)
 - Posterior standard deviation (SD, similar to standard error)
 - Bayesian credibility interval (2.5% and 97.5% quantiles)

summary(fit2)

```
## Call:
    ## [[1]]
    ## traitMPT(eqnfile = htm, data = frequencies, restrictions = list("dn=do"),
           n.iter = 30000, n.adapt = 5000, n.burnin = 5000, n.thin = 10,
           n.chains = 4)
     ##
     ##
    ## [[2]]
    ## extendMPT(fittedModel = fit, n.iter = 10000, n.adapt = 2000,
    ##
           n.burnin = 0)
     ##
     ##
    ## Group-level medians of MPT parameters (probability scale):
                        SD 2.5% 50% 97.5% Time-series SE n.eff Rhat R 95%
    ##
                Mean
    ## mean_dn 0.687 0.060 0.563 0.690 0.798
                                                 0.002
                                                             628 1.007 1.015
    ## mean g 0.537 0.037 0.461 0.538 0.608 0.001 1501 1.003 1.007
    ##
    ## Mean/Median of latent-trait values (probit-scale) across individuals:
    ##
                     Mean
                             SD 2.5% 50% 97.5% Time-series SE n.eff Rhat
    ## latent mu dn 0.496 0.172 0.160 0.495 0.833
                                                         0.007 624 1.006
    ## latent mu g 0.093 0.094 -0.098 0.094 0.273
                                                          0.002 1501 1.003
     ##
                    R_95%
    ## latent mu dn 1.014
    ## latent mu g 1.007
Daniel ## Heck
```

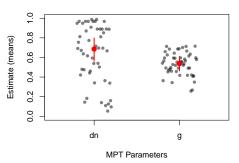
20 / 47

Plot Parameter Estimates

- Estimates for group-level parameters
 - lacktriangle Overall mean μ : Posterior mean and Bayesian credibility interval
 - Individual parameters θ_i : Posterior mean

plotParam(fit)

roup-level means + 95% CI (red) and individual means



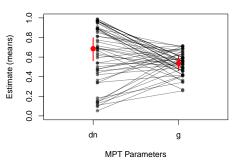
Daniel W. Heck 21/47

Plot Parameter Estimates

- Plot parameter profiles
 - E.g., assess test-retest reliability of a parameter (Michalkiewicz & Erdfelder, 2016)
- For more options, see: ?plotParam

```
plotParam(fit, addLines = TRUE, select = c("dn", "g"))
```

roup-level means + 95% CI (red) and individual means



Daniel W. Heck 22 / 47

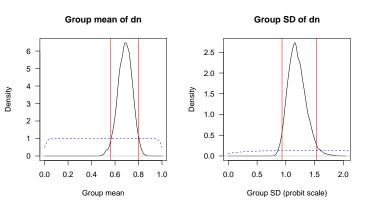
Compare Prior and Posterior

How much did we learn about the parameters?

Graphical assessment: Plot prior (blue) and posterior (black) densities

plotPriorPost(fit)

Press <Enter> to show the next plot.



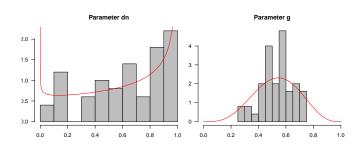
Daniel W. Heck 23/47

Group-Level Distribution

Distribution of individual estimates

- Histogram: Distribution of θ estimates (posterior mean per person)
- Red density: Estimated group-level distribution

plotDistribution(fit) # graphical test



Daniel W. Heck 24 / 47

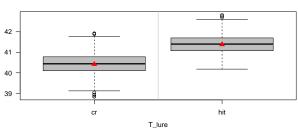
Model Fit: Predicted vs. Observed Data

Graphical test of model fit

- Plot means of observed frequencies
- Compare against posterior-predicted frequencies (boxplots)

```
plotFit(fit) # graphical test
```

Observed (red) and predicted (boxplot) mean frequencies



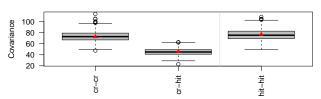
Daniel W. Heck 25 / 47

Model Fit: Predicted vs. Observed Data

■ Model fit for *covariance* of observed frequencies

```
cov(frequencies)
                            # this is the observed covariance matrix we test
##
                         fa
                                  hit.
                                           miss
               cr
## cr
         72.73837 -72.73837
                             45.98000 -45.98000
## fa
        -72.73837
                   72.73837 -45.98000 45.98000
## hit
        45.98000 -45.98000 76.85265 -76.85265
## miss -45.98000 45.98000 -76.85265 76.85265
plotFit(fit, stat = "cov") # graphical test
```

Observed (red) and predicted (gray) covariances



Daniel W. Heck 26 / 47

Model Fit: Predicted vs. Observed Data

Testing model fit

- The statistics T1 and T2 quantify the discrepancy between observed and expected means/covariances (similar to Pearson's X²)
- Posterior predictive p-values
 - Values around .50 indicate good model fit
 - Values close to 0 (or close to 1) indicate misfit
 - In contrast to frequentist p-values, PPP values are not uniformly distributed when generating data from the correct model

```
PPP(fit, M = 2000, nCPU = 4)
   ## Mean structure (T1):
   Observed = 0.03169322; Predicted = 0.03175106; p-value = 0.5045
##
## ## Covariance structure (T2):
   Observed = 6.572722; Predicted = 7.430602; p-value = 0.5295
##
## ## Individual fit (T1):
                                    6
## 0.578 0.450 0.522 0.418 0.478 0.516 0.418 0.518 0.270 0.526 0.501 0.524
           14 15 16
                             17
                                   18
                                         19
                                               20
                                                     21
                                                                       24
##
## 0.372 0.503 0.513 0.532 0.407 0.518 0.502 0.520 0.442 0.220 0.486 0.358
      25
           26
                 27
                       28
                             29
                                   30
                                         31
                                               32
                                                     33
                                                           34
                                                                       36
##
## 0.500 0.510 0.441 0.552 0.222 0.238 0.526 0.538 0.536 0.557 0.366 0.516
     37
           38
                 39
                       40
                             41
                                   42
                                         43
                                               44
                                                     45
##<sub>L0.3</sub>889 0.538 0.512 0.348 0.508 0.483 0.422 0.308 0.318 0.543 0.192 0.464
```

Summary

Modeling with TreeBUGS is simple

- Define model and clean data
- Draw MCMC samples
- Check convergence
- 4 Check model fit
- Interpret/plot parameters

Note that these are the usual steps in any Bayesian analysis. . .

Daniel W. Heck 28 / 47

Advanced Modeling

Daniel W. Heck 29 / 47

Within-Subject Comparisons

Assessing within-subject differences in parameters

- Data: Additional columns for separate within-subject conditions
- 2 Model: Write EQN file for within-subject design
- MCMC sampling (as usual)
- Comparison: Compute differences of parameters (transformed parameters)

(1) Data structure for within-subject design

```
freq_within <- read.csv("2htm_within.csv")
head(freq_within, 3)</pre>
```

```
##
     high_cr high_fa high_hit high_miss low_cr low_fa low_hit low_miss
## 1
          47
                    3
                             47
                                                       17
                                                               27
                                        3
                                               33
                                                                         23
## 2
          43
                             47
                                               37
                                                       13
                                                               31
                                                                         19
          38
                   12
                             40
                                        10
                                                               39
                                                                         11
## 3
                                               36
                                                       14
```

Daniel W. Heck 30 / 47

Within-Subject Comparisons

(2) Model: Function for writing within-subject EQN files

- TreeBUGS has a function extends a standard MPT model to multiple within-subject conditions
- Essentially, model equations are copied and each parameter gets a new label (e.g., d condition1)

```
Equation
##
                 Category
           Tree
## 1
     high target high hit
                                  d high
## 2
     high_target high_hit (1-d_high)*g
     high_target high_miss (1-d_high)*(1-g)
## 3
## 4
    high_lure high_cr
                                  d_high
## 5 high_lure high_fa (1-d_high)*g
## 6
     high lure high cr (1-d high)*(1-g)
## 7
      low_target low_hit
                                   d low
## 8
      low target
                low hit
                             (1-d low)*g
      low target low miss (1-d low)*(1-g)
## 9
## 10
     low_lure low_cr
                                   d low
## 11
     low lure low fa
                              (1-d low)*g
       low lure
                          (1-d low)*(1-g)
## 12
                 low cr
```

Daniel W. Heck 31/47

Within-Subject Comparisons

(4) Transformed parameters

- Often the interest is in the difference of a parameter across conditions
 - **Example:** Difference in memory strength $\Delta_d = d_{\mathsf{high}} d_{\mathsf{low}}$
- Based on the MCMC samples, we can simply compute any function of interest
 - We get a new set of posterior samples that can be summarized as usual

```
# fit to all conditions:
fit_within <- traitMPT("2htm_within.eqn", "2htm_within.csv")

# compute difference in d:
diff_d <- transformedParameters(
   fit_within,
   transformedParameters = list("diff_d = d_high - d_low"),
   level = "group")
summary(diff_d)$statistics</pre>
```

```
## Mean SD Naive SE Time-series SE ## 0.2973143953 0.0384344293 0.0003698355 0.0013866989
```

Daniel W. Heck 32 / 47

Comparisons in between-subject designs

- Fit MPT model to each condition separately
 - \blacksquare Separate group-level parameters μ and Σ per group
- Compute differences in group-level parameters across conditions/models

```
## Mean SD 2.5% 50% 97.5% Time-series SE n.eff Rhat R_95% ## d.m1-d.m2 0.389 0.074 0.241 0.389 0.534 0.004 314 1.008 1.025 ## d.m1>d.m2 1.000 0.000 1.000 1.000 1.000 NaN 0 NaN NaN
```

Daniel W. Heck 33 / 47

Correlation of MPT parameters with external covariates

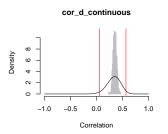
- New argument covData: A data frame or file name with values of the covariate(s)
- TreeBUGS computes the correlation of these covariates with the latent person parameters θ (probit values)

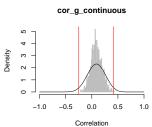
Daniel W. Heck 34/47

Covariates: Correlations

- Note that the posterior samples of the (descriptive) correlations only reflect uncertainty with respect to the MPT parameters
- We also need to consider the number of participants (sample size)!
- Solution: Use an analytical solution or the posterior distribution of the correlation (Ly et al., 2018)

correlationPosterior(fit cor)





```
## 2.5% 50% 97.5%
## cor_d_continuous 0.06 0.33 0.565
## cor_g_continuous -0.25 0.08 0.410
```

Daniel W. Heck 35 / 47

Covariates: Regression

Regression of MPT parameters on covariates

- \blacksquare Example: Predict memory performance d as a function of age
- Statistically, this requires an regression extension to the model
- The latent probit values θ'_i are predicted by a design matrix X:

$$\theta_i' = \mu + X_i \beta + \delta_i$$

Implementation in TreeBUGS

Requires only two new arguments to provide the data (age of persons) and the regression structure (predict parameter D_n by age)

```
round(fit_regression$summary$group$slope[,-6], 2)
```

```
## Mean SD 2.5% 50% 97.5% n.eff Rhat R_95% ## 0.18 0.07 0.03 0.17 0.33 312.00 1.03 1.09
```

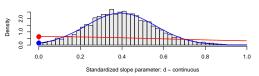
Daniel W. Heck 36 / 47

Bayes Factor for Covariate

Compute a Bayes factor

- H0: Slope parameter $\beta = 0$
- H1: Slope parameter $\beta \sim \text{Cauchy}(0, r)$ (with scale parameter r)
- Method: Savage-Dickey density ratio (Wagenmakers, 2010)
 - \blacksquare Bayes factor H1 vs. H0: prior devided by posterior density (at $\beta=0)$

Bayes factor B_10=4.326 (prior red; posterior blue)



```
## BF_0> BF_>0
## slope_d_continuous 0.2311668 4.32588
```

Daniel W. Heck 37 / 47

Between-Subject Comparisons: Similar to ANOVA

Between-subject designs: Assumptions about the covariance matrix Σ

- **I** Separate covariance matrix per condition: $\Sigma_1, \Sigma_2, \dots$
 - See previous slides: betweenSubjectMPT(fit1, fit2)
- f 2 Identical covariance matrix $f \Sigma$ across conditions
 - Similar to ANOVA: "pooled variance"
 - lacksquare Manipulation only affects the mean parameters μ
 - ANOVA priors by Rouder & Morey (2012)

```
# fit all between-conditions jointly:
fit between <- traitMPT(
                 htm d. "2htm.csv".
                 covData = "covariates.csv",
                 predStructure = list("d ; discrete"), # discrete predictor
                 predType = c("c"."f")) # "c" =continuous: "f"=fixed-effects
round(fit between$summary$groupParameters$factor[,-6], 2)
##
                                Mean
                                       SD 2.5% 50% 97.5% n.eff Rhat R 95%
## factor_d_discrete[1]_group_a 0.14 0.16 -0.19 0.13 0.46 196 1.04 1.13
## factor d discrete[2] group b -0.14 0.16 -0.46 -0.13 0.19 196 1.04 1.13
# get estimates for the group-specific MPT parameters
gmeans <- getGroupMeans(fit between)
round(gmeans, 2)
```

Sensitivity/robustness analysis

Daniel W. Heck 39/47

Define different priors

- Prior distributions in the latent-trait MPT necessary for:
 - Latent (probit-) mean μ
 - Latent (probit-) covariance matrix Σ : scaled inverse Wishart with
 - Prior matrix V
 - Degrees of freedom df
 - \blacksquare Scaling parameter ξ
- Example: We assume that guessing probabilities are around 50%

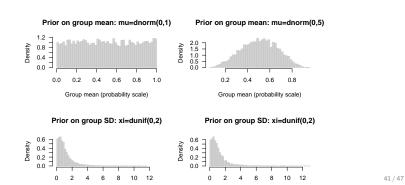
Daniel W. Heck 40 / 47

Understanding Priors

Daniel W. Heck

What do the priors actually mean?

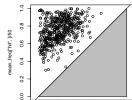
- Draw samples from the prior
- Plot mean/SD of MPT parameters



Prior Predictive Sampling

Prior predictive distribution

- Draw samples from the prior
- Draw new data (response frequencies)
- 3 Assess predicted data (e.g., plots or descriptive statistics)

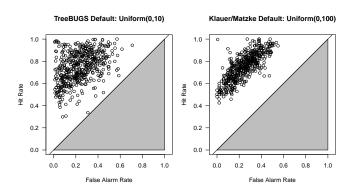


Daniel W. Heck 9 42 / 47

Prior Predictive Sampling

Excursion: Different default priors for the scale parameter ξ

- **I** TreeBUGS (Heck et al., 2018): $\xi \sim \text{Uniform}(0, 10)$
- Z Klauer (2010) and Matzke et al. (2015): $\xi \sim \text{Uniform}(0, 100)$



Daniel W. Heck 43 / 47

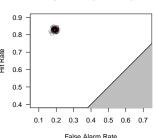
Posterior Predictive

Posterior Predictive Distribution

- What data does the fitted model predict?
- Use posterior samples of the parameters to draw new samples of the data (i.e., predicted response frequencies)
 - Note: These are the basis of posterior-predictive checks (T1 and T2 statistics)

```
postpred <- posteriorPredictive(fit, M = 100, nCPU = 4)</pre>
```

Posterior predicted (mean frequenci



Daniel W. Heck 44/47

Sensitivity and robustness analysis

- Assessing the impact of priors, estimate necessary sample size for specific analysis etc.
 - I Generate data from (correct or wrong) model
 - Fit model
 - 3 If necessary: Replicate with a for-loop

Daniel W. Heck 45 / 47

Appendix: Testing for Heterogeneity

A) chi 2 test

■ Test by Smith & Batchelder (2008)

test <- testHetChi(freg = frequencies,

- 1 Test person heterogeneity assuming items homogeneity (χ^2)
- 2 Test person heterogeneity under item heterogeneity (permutation bootstrap)

Daniel W. Heck 46 / 47

Appendix: MPT Versions Implemented in TreeBUGS

MCMC samplers available in TreeBUGS

- Fixed-effects ("standard") MPT: Gibbs sampler in C++
- Beta-MPT: JAGS and C++
- Latent-trait with extensions: JAGS
 - Combination of random- and fixed-effects parameters
 - Continuous and categorical covariates
 - Group-level structure: Independent normal distributions

Daniel W. Heck 47 / 47